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dental or other needed care later. Invariably the answer is, "No," and it is generally known that there are no exceptions. This seems to be slowly leading to an effort on the part of the parents to anticipate the requirements.

WEATHER TOPICS

By M. W. CURRAN, M.D.

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"We were received entirely without ceremony by the Prince Consort who conversed very pleasantly with us and I must say that there was never more got out of the weather than we managed to extract from it on this occasion."—*Correspondence of John Lathrop Motley.*

Weather records and impressions are always at variance and, conversationally, the weatherwise bulk large in any circle. If language is used to conceal thoughts then weather topics are discussed to avoid touching upon other subjects, hence it is well to be posted as one frequently has to take refuge in weather topics. With this short digression we will plunge into the midst of things.

Meteorology proper treats of the weather and its causes and of the physical laws involved, including the instruments by which the phenomena are observed. The difficulty of writing on such a subject lies in its magnitude. For our purposes brevity demands restriction to the science of Climatology or the science of climate which is a branch of Meteorology.

Climate is the permanent or average state of any locality with regard to atmospheric conditions, such as temperature, moisture, winds, cloudiness and precipitation as distinguished from weather which regards only conditions that may obtain momentarily. Weather is the current or passing state of the atmosphere, especially the conditions which affect man and his interests. It differs from climate which represents the average of these conditions or the average of all weathers.

Climate changes slowly but weather is constantly changing. There may be days of sunny weather in a foggy climate or of rainy weather in a foggy climate or of rainy weather in a dry climate.

The atmosphere surrounding the earth may be considered as an ocean of air extending upwards for about ten miles from the sea level of the earth's surface. Its greatest density is nearest the earth's surface by reason of its having to support the weight of its whole depth. It gradually becomes less dense as the distance from the earth increases. This law of decrease of pressure being known, it is used as a means of measuring the height of hills and mountains. Air has weight which we do not

feel because of the air and other gases within us which exert an equal outward pressure. Upon every square inch of the earth's surface there rests a weight of about fifteen pounds of air so that upon the body of a man the air presses with a force equal to 30,000 pounds.

A fundamental phenomenon of climate is atmospheric temperature for its differences give rise to winds, the direction of which, taken with temperature variations, control precipitation. Wind makes a bad climate worse and a good climate better. Cold, moist wind often soothes but more often depresses and aggravates catarrhal trouble. The aseptic condition of the air is also of the highest importance. The temperature of the air is due both to the sun and to the earth's internal heat but the latter may be disregarded for practical purposes. The distribution of heat over the earth's surface depends partly upon astronomical causes, such as the earth's sphericity, the inclination of its axis, which causes the poles to have a cold climate while that at the equator is hot, with varying temperatures between, and partly upon physical causes, such as the presence of land or water, the direction and force of the winds and the elevation of the land above the sea level.

Not only is there a drop of one degree of average temperature for every rise of three hundred feet, but mountain ranges also affect both temperature and rainfall in adjacent lowlands by deflecting air currents. Causes like these modify astronomical climate greatly so that, for instance, Labrador is cold and treeless, while the British Isles, in the same latitude, are mild and fertile. New York and Naples, San Francisco and Washington, are subject to the same astronomical conditions of climate; their actual differences are due wholly to physical causes. Mean summer temperature of a hot region really gives no adequate idea of the thing for which, from a climatological standpoint, the temperature is really quoted, namely, to indicate the degree of comfort with which one can live in the place. Take for example, Phoenix, Arizona, with a harmless 87 degrees as the mean summer temperature. Yet in 1900 the temperature, for half of the total number of days, was over 100°F. Many days it was over 105 and for five days it touched or exceeded 110.

Climate exercises a direct influence on the moral and physical characteristics of the individual by the necessities to which it subjects him, the habits it gives rise to and the advantages it procures him. The most important factors in climate are temperature, air weight as shown by altitude, humidity, sunshine.

Sunshine is of the utmost importance to the health-seeker. Its heat, actinic and chemic properties and its cheerful effect in leading to outdoor life, are indispensable.

The descriptive terms applied to weather, as cold, warm, dry, damp, wet, calm, windy, rainy, snowy, do not require special definition but are used in a relative sense. For instance what one would call cool weather in Cuba might be very warm weather at Mount Desert in Maine; what would be called dry at Greytown, Nicaragua, would be damp or wet at Santa Fe, New Mexico. Weather is often named by a sort of metaphor referring to its effects. Thus fair weather is that originally suited to ordinary commercial operations. The term has been modified in its uses by the United States Weather Bureau to indicate the absence of rain and complete cloudiness. Foul weather is that which is unsuited for such operations, generally rainy and windy. Dirty weather is that with low-flying clouds and driving rains. Soft weather is that which prevails when the melting snow or rain has softened the soil and impedes travel. Again weather is bright, sharp, tonic, sweltering or sultry, according to its physiological effects, and dull, close, gloomy, according to its psychic effects. By settled weather is meant a condition in which there is little intensity and little change in the meteorological elements from day to day. The converse of the proposition is variable weather. The weather of the southern states and of the Pacific coast is relatively settled. The most variable weather in the United States occurs along the northern boundary from the Rocky Mountains eastward. A spell of weather is the continuation of one type, especially in regions of variable weather. A change of weather is a change from one type to another.

(To be continued)

WHERE THE NURSE SOMETIMES FAILS¹

BY CATHERINE E. MORIARTY, R.N.

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What nobler calling could there be than that of the trained nurse? Who gives more relief to suffering humanity than this "angel of mercy" as she is sometimes called? How fine it would be if every woman who enters the profession would feel that hers is a calling for which she must one day give an account before the judgment seat of God, she would then be actuated by the purest of motives and the world could look to her as one who is really in sympathy with its miseries, but if she does not keep before her the principles that have been inculcated during her training, she fails, and that lamentably.

¹ Read at the annual meeting of the Graduate Nurses' Association of West Virginia, September 3, 1914.